

Application No. 10/528,767
Submission Dated August 6, 2006
In Response to Office Action Dated February 5, 2007
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present remarks are in response to the non-final Office Action mailed on February 5, 2007. Claims 1-23 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 1-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Claims 15-23 have been cancelled without prejudice. The Applicant intends to pursue claims directed to product in a separate, continuation application.

The applicant has amended claim 8 such that line 5 now includes "edges of the surface" rather than "edges of the ink." The change was made to correct an inadvertent typographical error. No new matter was added in making the above change. The applicants believe that the Examiner's objection to this claim is now satisfied and request that the objection be withdrawn.

3. Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,140,113 to King et al. (hereinafter the "King patent")

In rejecting the above claims, the Examiner noted:

King et al. discloses a method of fabricating a blade for a razor, comprising the steps of: providing a substrate including a combustible surface; generating a zirconia based ink onto the combustible surface []; the step of generating includes screen printing the zirconia based ink onto the combustible surface (col. 9, lines 20-42); the zirconia based ink includes partially stabilized zirconia and fully stabilized zirconia; the combustible surface is hydrophilic; and the combustible surface is a plastic film of surface finish ink wets the substrate to form a plurality of sharply pointed meniscus to serve as cutting surfaces; and firing the ink to burn away the combustible surface and to harden a rounded, sharp edge on the plurality of meniscus (see Figs. 1, 4, and 5; and col. 6 line 10 – col. 10 line 67).

(See Office Action of February 5, 2007, page 2, ¶3 – page 3, ¶1). Claims 1 and 8 are the only independent claims among those included in the above rejection.

The applicant submits that the King patent does not disclose each and every claim recitation of either claims 1 or 8 (reproduced below). "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." MPEP 2131 (citing *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)).

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Claims 1 and 8 recite:

1. A method of fabricating a foil for an electric razor, comprising the steps of:
 - providing a substrate including a combustible surface;
 - generating a foil plan form onto the combustible surface with a zirconia based ink such that flow of the ink under surface tension forces generates sharp edges to the foil; and
 - firing the foil plan form to burn away the combustible surface such that zirconia forms a durable foil that maintains sharpness over repeated use.
8. A method of fabricating a blade for a wet shave razor, comprising the steps of:
 - providing a substrate including a combustible surface;
 - generating a zirconia based ink onto the combustible surface such that the ink wets the substrate and edges of the surface slightly to form a plurality of sharply pointed meniscus to serve as cutting surfaces; and
 - firing the ink to burn away the combustible surface and to harden a rounded, sharp edge on the plurality of meniscus.

Notably, both claims 1 and 8 generally form an edge suitable for shaving by allowing the zirconia based ink to flow until sharp edges are formed. Specifically, in claim 1, the cutting edges of the foil are created by the flow of ink under surface tension forces and, in claim 8, the ink flows until it slightly wets the substrate and edges of the surface to form sharply pointed meniscus. In other words, the shape of the edge is formed during the above-described steps and, as stated in the specification (page 5, ¶2) with the need for “no finishing processes.”

The King patent discloses a blade made of ceramic material that is treated to enhance the strength and sharpness of the cutting edge. In one embodiment, ceramic particles along at least one margin of an edge-forming face are fused, such as by a laser treatment. The edge margin can have a hard ceramic coating of a different ceramic material such as a nitride of chromium, zirconium, titanium, titanium carbon or boron. The hard ceramic coating can be used alone or in conjunction with the laser treatment. The invention includes the methods of treating the edge, both to form the hard ceramic coating and to fuse the particles by scanning with laser, such as an ultraviolet laser.

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The King patent does not disclose the formation of a long-lasting, sharp edge (in either a foil or wet shave razor) that is formed in the manner claimed. Rather, in each embodiment, the edge is created by a process other than the flow of ink (e.g., grinding, laser treatment, etc). Accordingly, the King patent lacks at least this element of each of claims 1 and 8 and, therefore, cannot anticipate claims 1 and 8 as drafted. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 2-7 and 8-13 depend from claims 1 and 8, respectively and are, therefore, also not anticipated by the King patent for at least the same reasons stated above in connection with claims 1 and 8, as well as by virtue of the additional claim recitations included therein. Favorable reconsideration of the rejections of these claims is requested, as well.

4. Claims 15, and 19-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,989,804 to Yellon (hereinafter the "Yellon patent")

Claims 15-23 have been cancelled, rendering the above rejection moot.

6. Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in light of the King patent

Claim 14 depends from claim 8. As discussed above, the King patent does not disclose each and every claim recitation of claim 8. Therefore, because claim 14 depends from claim 8, the King patent also does not anticipate or render obvious claim 14 for at least the same reasons stated above. Favorable reconsideration of this claim is, therefore, respectfully requested.

7. Claims 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in light of the Yellon patent

Claims 15-23 have been cancelled, rendering the above rejection moot.

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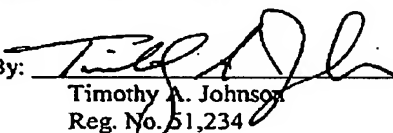
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Summary

In summary, applicants have addressed each objection and traversed each rejection made by the Examiner. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objections and rejections be withdrawn and the present application be passed onto allowance.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 504112 in the amount of \$1020.00 to cover the fees associated with the extension of time. No additional fees are believed to be due in connection with the present Amendment and Remarks. However, if it is determined that fees are required, please charge our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted.

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